



## National School Lunch Week

October 12-16, 1998

By Diane Rice

This year's theme from ASFSA is "School Lunch: It's a Hit!" The theme describes how there are many possibilities with all the options and choices available to select from and you can still have a hit. National School Lunch Week is a great opportunity to show students, faculty, administrators, parents, and the entire community what a wonderful job you do serving children every school day. Show everyone in your community that school lunch today is already on the hit parade demonstrating that your operation is more than ready to meet the challenges of tomorrow.

The following three menus offer planning flexibility. You don't have to serve each menu. You know your students best; feel free to mix, match and substitute. Or develop your own mega hit menu! If you choose to substitute, you will need to verify the meal pattern requirements or nutrients.

For more information and activities, see your April 1998 **School Foodservice & Nutrition**, or if you are not a member of ASFSA, you can call the State Agency for a

reprint of the magazine article.

### **The People's Choice**

Yogurt  
Deli Sandwich Half  
Crunchy Veggie Sticks  
Ranch Dressing  
Fresh Fruit  
Granola  
Milk

### **Red Hot Rhythm**

Italian Dunkers  
Cheesy Bread  
Italian-seasoned Potato Wedges  
Tossed Greens  
Variety of Salad Dressings  
Mixed Fruit Cup  
Oatmeal Raisin Cookie  
Milk

### **Salsa & Soul**

Chicken Quesadillas  
Lettuce and Tomato  
Spanish Rice  
Salsa  
Pineapple Chunks  
Sundae Bar  
Milk

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## Crediting Salsa

By Julie Sutton

USDA has established a new policy to allow crediting of salsa following certain criteria. First, as with any vegetable/fruit component, the minimum amount that can be used to receive credit is 1/8 cup. Second, for products that contain all vegetable ingredients plus minor amounts

of spices and flavorings, 100% of the product may be used to meet the volume requirement. The USDA commodity salsa fits into this category. For products that contain non-vegetable components, like gums, starches or stabilizers, only that portion of the product that is a vegetable ingredient may be counted towards the volume requirement. It is the responsibility of the purchaser to maintain documentation on the percentage of vegetable in a product. This will need to be supplied and documented by the manufacturer or can be written into a product specification that goes out for bid.

## Vending Meals to Other CNPs

By Frederick E. Powell

Recently, USDA addressed the issue of school corporations vending meals to other Child Nutrition Programs including private schools and Child and Adult Care sponsors. USDA's definition of a processor includes all commercial facilities that process USDA donated foods into a different end product or repackage such foods. A food service management company that contracts with schools qualifies as a processor.

"When a nonprofit recipient agency like a school corporation prepares meals containing donated commodities for other recipient agencies, they are operating as a commercial food service management company." (Source: Federal Register, December 4, 1994) Therefore, they would be considered a processor under the new definition, and would have to meet the record keeping and reporting requirements. However, if the following criteria are met, a school corporation would be exempt:

1. Be accountable for any donated foods received from a recipient agency for which meals are prepared. As an example, if a school corporation prepares meals for another agency and receives commodities from that agency, the accountability requirements (storage, utilization, and record keeping) are the same as any other commodities received by the school corporation.

2. All funds received for meals prepared must be deposited in the school corporation's nonprofit school meal account.

Food Service Management Companies that meet the above criteria will also be exempt.

When making a decision regarding the vending of meals, please keep the above criteria in mind, and address the use of commodities and payment arrangement in the contract.

## Labeling of Dairy and Juice Products

By Frederick E. Powell

The State Agency recently received a memorandum with a letter addressed to School Food Authority Directors regarding the net content labeling of dairy and juice products. Instead of reprinting this two-page document we are providing a summary of the main points.

USDA in conjunction with the Federal Trade Commission, the Department of Commerce's National Institute of Standards and Technology, the Food and Drug Administration's Office of Food Labeling and State Weights and Measures conducted a joint monitoring effort regarding the accuracy of content labeling for dairy and juice products. The monitoring project was conducted in twenty states during April 1997. Indiana was not included in the project. The net contents of 1,600 lots of dairy and juice products were tested. Approximately 760 lots were in schools of which 360 lots failed. The Food and Nutrition Service is seriously concerned with the high percentage of failure, therefore the following recommendations have been issued:

1. All contracts, for dairy and juice products, should include a provision that allows for the testing of products by State Weights and Measures representatives. It should also describe what action will be taken by the school if a product fails the test. Corrective action may include but is not limited to the following:

- a. Cash restitution or in-kind replacement for the entire lot that failed.

- b. Payment for the value of all meals that the school served which failed to meet federal requirements for

reimbursement because the milk did not meet the minimum required weight.

c. The contract terms for providing restitution and payments.

d. A notice that continued failure to meet the required weight will constitute a breach of contract and will lead to termination of the contract.

e. Require that all cost resulting from termination for cause must be borne by the contractor.

2. Invite state weights and measures representatives to conduct tests on all dairy and juice products used in your Child Nutrition Program.

3. Utilize the service of legal counsel to ensure bid terms, contract terms and all correspondence with suppliers are legally sufficient and in your best interest.

Please maintain accurate records when there is an incident concerning failure of a supplier to meet content labeling requirements, and forward all information to this office to help us monitor the problem suppliers.

## First Year Contests are Successful

By Janet S. Eigenbrod, RD

Two new and successful contests were sponsored by the Indiana Department of Education, Division of School and Community Nutrition Programs during this school year. The contests were introduced during National School Lunch Week in October 1997, and the winners were announced in April 1998.

The Senator Richard G. Lugar School Food Service Employee of the Year, was awarded to Gail Knafel, West Noble Elementary School, Ligonier, in April at the Indiana School Food Service Association Conference. Gail, a kitchen manager for the past 15 years, was nominated by one of her staff, and was one of 43 vying for the award. The award recognizes a food service employee who offers outstanding service to the students,

exhibits a positive attitude, is efficient, provides a high standard of work, is dependable and diligent, participates in implementing innovative school food service, advocates the importance of nutrition education as part of the school day, and promotes the link between the classroom and the cafeteria. Senator Lugar spoke to the Conference via video and introduced Dr. Suellen Reed, Superintendent of Public Instruction who announced the winner. Karen Lacky, representing the Indiana Farm Bureau, recognized Gail's outstanding performance by presenting her a check for \$500.

The Golden Apple Nutrition Education Award was presented to Hannah Williams, a 7<sup>th</sup> grade Family and Consumer Science teacher at Southport Middle School in Indianapolis. The presentation was made at the Indiana Family and Consumer Science Association's annual conference. This award is designed to recognize a teacher who uses innovative ideas to teach nutrition in the classroom while making it a fun interactive experience for students. The award was financially supported by The Indiana Dietetic Association (\$300), Indiana Nutrition Council (\$100), and The Dairy and Nutrition Council (\$100 voucher for nutrition education materials). The nutrition unit is ten hours of classroom instruction. It enables middle school-age students to make heart healthy food choices for a lifetime by learning how to understand and implement the Food Guide Pyramid in their daily lives. The curriculum will be made available to other Family and Consumer Science teachers through the NET program.

## E-mail Receipt of Commodity Confirmations

By John Todd

Beginning with the fall of 1998, the division will make *Commodity Confirmations* available via e-mail. We are offering this service so that recipient agencies can schedule delivery of available commodities in a more efficient manner. Recipient agencies that elect to receive their confirmation by this method will continue to receive

a hard copy by postal mail. For those agencies who do not have access to e-mail, we will continue to honor requests for faxing confirmation information when needed.

We are announcing this new service now so agencies can plan for internet access over the summer should they desire to take advantage of this service. We will send out additional information early next fall, and collect e-mail addresses from agencies wishing to participate. The capability of receiving e-mail transmissions will, for the immediate future be totally optional. Lack of internet access will in no way limit your participation in any Child Nutrition Programs administered by the Division.

On the other hand, internet based exchanging of information will obviously play an important role in improving communication and service between the Division and our customers in the future. Internet access should probably be pursued by all Child Nutrition Program sponsors in Indiana for a variety of educational and administrative reasons.

While the *Commodity Allocations* may also be sent via e-mail, transmission of that document is not being implemented at this time. We want to develop procedures to ensure that all sponsors, regardless of how they receive allocation information, have the same chance at requesting and receiving additional commodities on each distribution.

If you have any questions or comments, please contact John Todd at (800) 537-1142 or (317) 232-0850.

## Return of the Update Meetings

By Diane Rice

The Division will again offer Back-to-School workshops in July and August. The announcement was sent to food service directors in May. Activities begin at 8:15a.m. **local time** and end by 12:50 with a mid-morning snack. Short topics may include: SFForms, computerization issues, meal charging policies, severe need breakfast, and special needs children. Three 50 minute breakout periods will cover longer subjects listed below. For questions, contact Diane Rice or Sharon Cook toll free at (800) 537-1142 or locally at 232-0850.

### CONCURRENT SESSIONS:

#### 1. School Meals Initiative - How Is It Going?

Sharing nutrient analyses data for food-based schools and regulations for "Any Reasonable Approach."

#### 2. School Food Service - More Than a Meal!

How to extend the cafeteria into the classroom. Learn to improve your image and be part of the education team.

#### 3. Basics of the Quarterly Financial Statement

For HELP in filling out this report and questions about what goes where, here are the explanations.

#### 4. Prepaid Meals - Quarterly Financial Statement

When a school lets students prepay into an account for purchasing lunches, breakfasts, or a la carte items, where is the money reported? The Quarterly Financial Statement has been modified and will be mailed soon.

### DATES AND HOST SCHOOLS ARE:

Jul 28	Linton-Stockton
Jul 29	South Gibson
Jul 30	New Albany-Floyd County
Jul 31	Jennings County
Aug 4	Delphi
Aug 5	Merrillville
Aug 6	Bremen
Aug 7	Whitley County
Aug 11	Shenandoah
Aug 13	MSD Decatur Township
Aug 14	South Montgomery

In the operation of child nutrition programs, no child will be discriminated against because of race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability. Any person who believes that he or she has been discriminated against in any USDA related activity should write immediately to the Secretary of Agriculture, Washington, DC 20250.

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